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Pumas Race Towards the End of the Year

Saint Joseph's College annual Little 500 race celebrates a successful 52nd running

By Kylie Hill
News Writer

On Saturday, April 16, Pumas revved up their engines for the 52nd annual SJC Little 500! Thirteen drivers diligently worked on their cars, practiced, and then competed, but only junior Business major Adam Meeker came out victorious for his second win in a row. However, this successful event would not have been possible without the individuals who do careful behind-the-scenes preparation and planning.

Adriana Lugosan, a sophomore Biology major, was this year's Little 500 chair. She, along with the Puma Activities Council (PAC) committee, and John May, organized the event, but their plans could not have been fulfilled without the volunteers who help the drivers prepare their cars, provide a majority of the cars, service the pace car, control the scoring, and much more. Although there are many parent and other alumni volunteers, the men who helped the most were Ron Kasparian '08, Tom Messman Sr. '68, his sons Tom Jr. '90 and Jon Messman '90, and John Plank, an SJC employee. They have all been involved in Little 500 since they were students. John Plank has been involved 25 out of the 26 years he has worked for Saint Joseph's College. The time these men have put into Little 500 cannot be measured. When asked to estimate how many hours they spend working on the cars, scoring system, and set up, they all paused, thought, and exclaimed, "A lot!" The Monday before Little 500 is the first official day the drivers can start working on their cars at the barns; however, Kasparian allows them to come to his warehouse and start early, if they wish.

Prior to that week, Kasparian spent two months working on



Above: Photos courtesy of SJC Student Development. Drivers race around the "track" created by Puma Activities Council and other volunteers. Bottom right: The leaderboard shows the final results of the race.

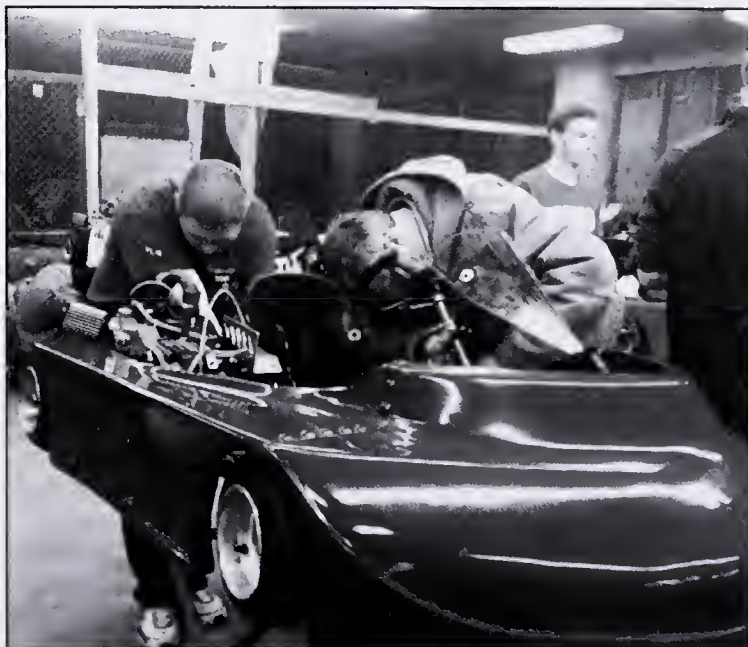
the new electric pace car for the race. Plank allows a driver to race one of his cars, and this year senior Psychology major Amanda Kaser drove it. He also sets up the straw bales, fills in pot holes, sets up fencing, and works on improving the scoring system. Plank also has been in charge of the donations for ten years that they have been raising for the scoring system. Tom Messman Sr. supplied nine of the thirteen frames of the karts that raced on Saturday, while Kasparian owns all the parts on those karts. All the volunteers work on engines, fuel lines, tires, steering wheels, showing student drivers how to get in and operate their karts, and anything that needs to be done. Driver and junior Business and Mass Communication major and veteran racer Hanna Kane commented that she "learned a lot of little things" and that Kasparian, Plank, and the Messmans are "really helpful. They make sure we meet all of the requirements to be safe." Kaser has been around racing since she was little, but it was her first year racing at SJC. She has been involved in pit crews since her freshman year. She said that she has "learned a lot over the

last four years" and is "excited to come back to talk to these guys as an alumnus."

Little 500 feels like a family tradition at Saint Joseph's College. Kasparian commented that his favorite part of helping with the event is seeing the people. He said "You get to see a snapshot in someone's life every year...it's like a family reunion." Tom Messman Sr. echoed this saying that Little 500 is a "time to come back and join with comrades." Without these men, Little 500 would not be the successful, community, safe, event that it is. They sacrifice their time, put their own needs on hold—many of them race in the alumni race and don't even touch their cars till Friday night—and are always there to help.



Bottom right: Photo courtesy of James Winter. Adam Meeker, winner for the second year in a row, prepares for the race. Bottom left: Photo courtesy of Kylie Hill. John Plank and Dave Myrda work on his kart in the barns the week before the race.



Students Receive Sacraments of Initiation

By Alyssa Cook
News Writer

On Sunday, April 27 two Saint Joseph's College students received the Sacraments of Initiation into the Roman Catholic Church. Junior Emily Miles and senior Alyssa Guarnaccia received their sacraments, surrounded by their fellow students, sponsors, friends, and family during the 11 AM. Mass. Deborah Anderson from St. Augustine in Rensselaer also received Confirmation. The Sacraments of Initiation are given through the RCIA or Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults at Saint Joseph's College, in partnership with St. Augustine parish in downtown Rensselaer, and include Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist.

In Baptism, original sin is washed away and the person rises from the water to new life in Christ. It marks the beginning of a person's journey of faith. Confirmation brings the gifts of the Holy Spirit to the person

in a special way. Through this sacrament one enters into full adulthood in the Catholic faith. The RCIA program leads those wishing to enter into the Catholic Church through months of prayer, reflection, and teachings on the Catholic faith. Sunday's celebration marks the beginning of the candidates' new lives as Catholics and also marks the end of months of intense preparation for that moment.

Miles and Guarnaccia did not complete this step alone. Each had a sponsor to help them through their journey and be with them as a guide in the faith as they receive the sacraments and strive to live a Catholic life. Miles received all three sacraments and Dr. Tom Ryan acted as her sponsor. "To me, being baptized, confirmed and taking first communion in one day is truly amazing," Miles said. "Those sacraments...made this day all the more memorable for me. [I] felt both prepared and unprepared for these sacraments and joyous that I am taking this

journey with so many lovely people, and that I am where I belong."

During Miles' Baptismal ceremony, Father Stang prayed over her in Latin, and Dr. Ryan passed her the light and life of the church by giving her a candle lit from the Easter candle. Later, in another part of the Mass, Miles and the other members receiving Confirmation were accepted into the church. Each individual chose the name of a saint for their Confirmation name, which was announced with their first and last names, serving as a formal declaration of Confirmation.

After the ceremony, Miles expressed her excitement over the Sacraments of Initiation she received. "My sponsor, Dr. Ryan, and I were very happy during the entire mass," Miles said. "We have been excited for a while now for this. It didn't hit me until this morning the entirety of the sacraments I received... I was eating breakfast and realized that I was going to take Communion, and I could not stop smiling from that realization until far after Mass had ended. Words cannot express how joyful I feel at this moment, confirmed in my life and home with Christ."

Guarnaccia expressed similar delight over the ceremony: "I was really happy I had finally made the decision to become a Catholic... This ceremony meant a lot to me and to my family. It was an amazing feeling seeing not only friends from SJC but my parents, my grandparents, and my aunt and uncle all drive hours to see me being welcomed into the Catholic faith. I am very thankful for being given the opportunity to go through RCIA at SJC."



Image courtesy of Br. Tim Hemm, C.P.P.S. Junior Emily Miles is baptized by Fr. Stang, C.P.P.S. on April 27.



Career Corner

Use free College Central Network account for job search, internships

Why should you register for a College Central Network Account? It allows you to search three databases in one location, making it easier to locate possible job or internship opportunities.

These databases include positions specific to your school's career center, Job Central with thousands of job postings, and Intern Central, with more internship postings than you will find anywhere else.

You get exclusive benefits for all three databases. Through your school account, you can search for jobs, and even line up on-campus interviews. Plus, you can find your own job search agent. The account also gives you access to helpful resources for resumes and career portfolios.

Through your Jobs Central account you can find almost any job that has been posted on the Internet. The search fields are also very user friendly.

Through Intern Central you can access internships posted everywhere, in much the same

way as Job Central. Searching by state is the easiest way to begin your internship searches. Play around with keywords and use broader terms first, and then narrow down the search. You can also search for particular employers as well, including broad categories such as "Top Employers."

This account does not end after you graduate. You can continue to use it until you retire. All you have to do is make sure you note that you are an "alumnus" instead of a "student" user. You can even keep everything you have saved in your account for future job searches.

This information comes from "Job Search from One Central Account" from CareerCentral Advice provided by Carey Monroe from Career Development.

For more information on registering for a Career Central Network Account, please contact Carey Monroe at cmonroe@saintjoe.edu.

A Conversation with Mr. & Ms. Puma 2014



Mark Maes is a junior from Culver, Indiana who is studying Business Administration.

What was your favorite part of the Mr. Puma Competition?
My favorite part of the Mr. Puma competition was practicing and performing the "Jingle Bell Rock" dance with my very good friends, Tyler Fisher, Adam Stutsman, and Tadd Maddalozzo.

What is your favorite pick-up line?
My favorite pick up line was taught to me by one of my 11 year old campers, "Do you work at Subway? Because you're giving me a footlong."

If you were given 1 million dollars, what is the first thing that you would spend it on?
If I was given 1 million dollars, the first thing I would do is pay off my student loans. And then I would buy a new phone, because mine sucks.

If you could marry any celebrity, who would you marry?
If I could marry one celebrity, I would marry Jennifer Aniston. I've been in love with her ever since I was little.

What is your favorite ice cream flavor?
My favorite ice cream flavor is Vanilla. I'm a very simple man.



Katie Dittman is a senior from Elkhart, IN who is majoring in Mass Communications.

What was your favorite part of the Ms. Puma competition?
My favorite part of being in Ms. Puma was my talent portion because incorporating all my friends and singing a song that is really popular right now was a lot of fun... it was something that I loved doing, which is singing, but I was able to add some humor to it, which I really enjoyed.

What is your favorite Mean Girls quote?

"On Wednesdays, we wear pink" because I love pink. I wore pink in Grease, and I wore pink today, and I love it.

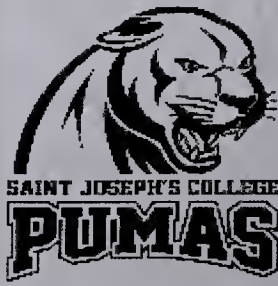
If you were given 1 million dollars, what is the first thing you'd spend it on?
The first thing I'd do is pay off my SJC loans because I'm about to graduate, and they're coming, and I'm a little nervous about being able to pay for them.

If you could marry any celebrity, who would you marry?
If I could marry any celebrity and not be creepy, I would marry Harrison Ford because I'm in love with him, even though he's old.

If someone made a movie about your life, who would you want to play you?
I would want Reese Witherspoon to play me. I think she's awesome, and as much as I'd like Sandra Bullock to play me, Reese Witherspoon has the hair to play Katie Dittman.

Upcoming Puma Events!

- 5/2 Improv Club Show
- 5/3 Halas Hall End of the Year Bash
- 5/3 Early Registration for Incoming Freshman
- 5/4 Academic Awards Ceremony
- 5/8 Last day of final exams
- 5/9 Baccalaureate Mass
- 5/10 Commencement



Thank You

By Mike Sosnowski
Opinions Editor

If there is one thing I’m probably not known for it’s sentimentality. The words most often used to describe me cannot be written in a school paper. Still, graduation is upon me and my peers, and this is my last time to talk about myself (something I am quite well known for), so consider this a farewell letter not only to you, dear readers, but to the school at large.

Saint Joseph’s College has been one of the greatest opportunities I have had in my short life. I know that is not what one usually hears when discussing the school. And I won’t lie I’ve taken my fair share of shots at the school over the years. Yet, this school has been my home and shown me so much. Quite honestly, I don’t think anywhere else would let me be the president of a fantastic club, a class, an editor of the paper, a member of a few more organizations, an actor, an amateur comedian, and a double major. No, I’m not boasting here; that would take several more pages of space than what I have. I’m making a point. SJC is small and many hate that, but there’s a thing about a small place:

it’s filled with opportunities. Opportunities that knock very rarely elsewhere. So take them while you can, don’t waste them. Don’t waste your weekends here either. Go out with friends live it up, whatever that may be as long as it’s safe. Certainly there are weekends that seem lame, but really grab a friend and do something, anything. This place is wonderful for crafting memories. Whether it’s been screaming at video games with friends, playing cards into the wee hours of the night, or the memorable nights that I can’t remember for reasons, this has been the time of my life. So have fun; college is the one place you can be an adult and a kid all at once. It’s amazing.

What I really want to say though is thank you. SJC will stay with me forever. So thank you to the wonderful professors I’ve had. Thank you to the awesome staff, from the HUB and café, to the library workers I’ve seen in the three times I’ve been in the library. Thank you to my peers. And thank you to the school as a whole. It’s been amazing. Congratulations to my fellow graduates, we’re gonna kill it out there, and good luck to the underclassmen.



(Above) Photo courtesy of Mike Sosnowski. In this picture Erik Benson, Tim McFarland, and Mike Sosnowski. Wouldn’t trade it for the world.

Fond Farewell

By Erik Benson
GuestWriter

It’s so hard to believe that it’s already been four years here. I remember thinking to myself so many times “Man, graduation is forever away!”, and now it’s almost over. Talk about surreal.

I’ve enjoyed my time here at SJC much more than I ever could have possibly imagined. I’ve learned more about myself here than I ever would have learned at home, or any other school, for that matter. SJC has helped me grow, learn what I should and shouldn’t do (PROTIP: don’t write an exam paper in the three hours before it’s due), and what really matters. I’ve learned what I enjoy doing, what makes me happy, and ultimately, what I want to do with the rest of my life. I’ve grown in faith, confidence, knowledge, skill, and understanding as part of my experiences here, and those are some things I can never forget.

However, for me, the most important and valuable experiences weren’t in the classroom, from the textbooks or assignments or late night papers. What mattered the most out of all of this is the relationships I’ve formed with my friends, with the people who truly matter. I’ve laughed, cried, screamed, joked, partied, and stayed up all night with them and more, and I wouldn’t trade a minute of it for anything. My friends have taught me more than any programming tutorial or writing of Plato ever could, and I am eternally grateful for all of that. To my friends who have shaped me (you know who you are), I love you all, more than words could ever say.

Most importantly, SJC is home to me. Though I may not live on campus for much longer, or take classes here, it will always be my home... And I will never forget that.



(Above) Photo Courtesy of Google Images. Hard to believe four years are up, good luck in the real world

Totally Worth It

By Tanner Brunson
Guest Writer

So it’s been four years since I first set foot on Saint Joseph’s College. Actually, that was about a month ago, but that’s being specific. Within my first week at the Joe, I met one of my best friends doing something that would bind any two strangers together: filling out loan paperwork. Consent forms, knowledge of consent forms, knowledge of knowledge forms... we filled out these forms with the consensus that we hate people, and loans, and most importantly...people who give loans. You can only imagine the kind of crazy antics we got into if this was our reaction to something mundane like loan paperwork. Getting off topic again. I’m really bad at that. Anyway, filled out these forms four years ago, and you can only guess what I’ll be doing in my last few days as a senior. That’s right, filling out more paperwork in regards to loans. Turns out there is an exit

counselling session for anyone who’s ever borrowed money from the government...ever. At least it’s online, or just think of how much paper would be unnecessarily wasted.

Back to memory lane. So through my four years here, I’ve made friends, lost friends, declared my major, slept through classes, and somehow accumulated the credit hours and GPA to be handed a slip of paper telling me little more than ‘Good Job.’ And yet I almost missed out on these experiences because... you guessed it. Loans again. For as much as I don’t like them, I could spend hours discussing them. Through circumstances beyond my family’s control, my financial aid plummeted and I had to consider whether or not I would continue out my next three years. I finally decided to continue without significant financial aid, but the memories and camaraderie I’ve built are well worth the crippling debt I face in the coming six months...I think.



Involved For Life

(Above) Photo Courtesy of Google Images. It really has been a home and will be missed.

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We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph’s College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

Are We Plugged Into the Matrix?

By Ashlee Troop
Staff Writer

Larry and Andy Wachowski's hit movie, *The Matrix*, was released almost two decades ago but still continues to play an influential part in pop culture today. For example, the "Morpheus" meme is based upon the movie scene when Morpheus informs Neo that the "real" world is just an illusion. A meme is an idea, style or action which spreads, often as mimicry, from person to person via the Internet. The "Morpheus" meme has been remade thousands of times in popular culture. It always begins with, "What if I told you..." and ends with specific information. Popular cinematography has also adopted the movie's use of "bullet time." This special effect occurs when a character stops or slows down time by raising his hand. This usually results in a character being able to escape danger or an enemy.

The movie begins with Neo (Keanu Reeves), a computer hacker, being contacted by Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss). After Trinity finds him, they meet up with Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne). Then, Morpheus tells Neo about the truth of reality and how the computer program "Matrix"

provides a false reality for the humans hooked up to it. In reality, humans are kept in pods and machines feed off the energy of the humans.

Evil agents play a recurring role throughout the film as a "program" of the Matrix, designed to erase problems and keep the humans from unhooking from their pods. Specifically, Agent Smith's cruelty and evilness made for an easy to hate villain. Smith's (Hugo Weaving) acting created a spectacular main antagonist.

Throughout the movie, Trinity, Morpheus and Neo, fight the agents and attempt to get to Zion. Morpheus guides their ship to Zion, which is where all freed humans live and also helps Neo develop his potential. Neo realizes his destiny is to unite humans and machines again, and Trinity guides the ship's crew in navigating the Matrix. The team works well together and is a good place for Neo to come to terms with his calling as the savior of the world.

The only issues I had with this movie were its overuse of classic dystopian themes. The film relied heavily on fear of machines taking over and alternate or false realities. It would have been

better if the Wachowski brothers had used less clichéd dystopian themes to create an alternate world as the backdrop of their movie.

The best parts of this movie were its animation and digital effects. The animation is very similar to classic Asian anime movies such as *Ninja Scroll* and *Ghost in the Shell*. Both special computer effects and revolutionary camera effects were used to create the top-of-the-line animations in the film. Its special effects were the cutting edge in the early 2000's and are still referenced today. The storyline was also engaging, and I found it easy to think twice about whether I might still be plugged into the Matrix. Is this world real or is it just a computer program? We may never know.

This movie was one of the best I have seen this year and my absolute favorite dystopian movie. If someone wants to watch a movie that makes them consider whether or not reality is real and what our reliance of machines may do to us as a society, then this is the movie for them! With its engaging storyline and relatable characters, this movie was philosophically eye-opening and worth the watch.



Here stands the savior Neo (Keanu Reeves) stopping bullets with his hand in the air. This savior has been compared to Christianity's savior Jesus Christ. There's even pictures of Jesus with his hand up like this. Perhaps that's what the Wachowski brothers were going for.

A Short Story...

"How are you?"

Broken. Useless. Alone. Clueless.
Confused. Betrayed. Fragile. On the verge
of tears. Depressed. Anxious. About to
break down. Really give up. Pathetic.
Annoying. I'm just a burden. Distant.
Lonely. Bitter. Heartbreak. Lonely.
Rejected. Crushed. I feel like I'm going to
just fall apart at any moment. Empty.
Defeated. Never good enough.

By Gloria Leonard
Back Page Co-Editor

"Why do people ask, 'How are you?' if they don't really care to know how you are?" my roommate asked.

"And why do we answer, 'I'm fine,'" if we really are not fine at all? Far from it, actually," I countered.

I have been thinking about this a lot lately. Someone will ask, "How are you?" in passing and not even slow down long enough to hear me say, "I'm stressed. I'm overwhelmed and maybe even a little depressed. I skipped breakfast, so I'm a little hungry."

They stick around long enough to hear the two words they want to hear because they don't really want to know if I'm fine. I'm fine—the two little words that have lost their meaning to me. First I learned what I am. What I am is confused. You asked the

question, but I am wasting your time. I am boring you with how I am. I am bothering you with my honest answer that you didn't really want even though you asked. You do not want to know what I am; you want to know that I am fine so you don't have to really care.

Second, I learned what "fine" really means. Fine means I have a million assignments due this week and I am averaging four hours of sleep per night. Fine means I lost my last ten dollars meant to last me the next two weeks...and I just got a parking violation ticket. Fine means my heart was ripped out from my chest when my uncle tested positive for cancer. You don't want to hear that he no longer looks like the man who I used to go hiking with. His flesh is an unnatural pale and Mexico isn't the ideal location to seek medical help—but he's fine, too. Fine does not mean "fine." It

means "I don't want to talk about it," or "long story." It means that you don't really care, so why are you even asking?

This subject has caused me to begin to challenge myself, along with others. I challenge myself to only say I am fine when that is truly how I feel. I will be honest. My theory is that this will condition those who ask me to either refrain from asking if they do not really care to know, or they will begin to listen and maybe even care. Or not.

I challenge everyone to stop giving automatic answers. We are humans with brains, not machines programmed to say things we really do not mean. In being honest, we are being honest with ourselves. How am I? I am hungry. I am hungry, not only for food, but for a change. I am hungry for honesty and sincerity. We are not simply "fine"—far from it, actually.

End of School

By Kristina Hemmerling
Features Co-Editor

I am a senior and in nine days I will be graduating from Saint Joseph's College. I've known this fact for a while, but it has recently begun to sink in.

It's crazy to think about my freshman year. Everything seemed very new and different and scary. It's almost sad, because I'm about to feel the exact same way all over again. Graduating from college is great, no more classes or assignments or grades. But now I have to find a job, make money, buy a car, pay rent to live somewhere, make all of my own food, and be completely self-reliant.

In some ways I've been looking forward to all of those things for a long time, but in others I'm still terrified. I mean, I have to pay all my own bills now- rent and car insurance and all the little small bills that come along with living somewhere. Paying for college is one thing, but having these monthly bills is not going to be fun.

I'm trying to not focus on that stuff though. As much as I can complain about my future and as much as I have complained about my past, overall I have to say I have had a great time at good ol' SJC.

I've seen a lot of movies, made a lot of art, written a few things I'm actually proud of, stayed up way too late with friends, eaten way too much food. I've met some great people, been lazy, tried really hard, tried not-so-hard. I even put myself out there a few times.

People say that college is where you make the most

memories and meet your friends for life. Sometimes I wonder about that. Will I really remember staying up until 5 AM talking about the O.C.? Maybe, since this is the second time I've mentioned it in an article.

I have certainly made some memories I won't forget- good and bad. And I've met people I've liked and loved and people I really wouldn't mind never seeing again. I thought for a while that this was an issue with the school I chose, but I've come to realize otherwise. This is the case everywhere, no exceptions. In your future job there will be good times and bad. In future relationships you will meet people you love and people you hate. It's the way of life. I have often wished that this were not the case, but no one ever said life is fair. We get stuck with the consequences of the things we choose, and there's no taking them back. I've wondered once or twice what it would be like if I had gone to a different school, but such thoughts are generally a waste of time. I chose SJC and what happened after that cannot be undone. Which is fine, because it is what it is. Change what you can, leave the rest.

I have mixed feelings about graduation, sad and happy. It's going to be hard to see friends when we all have jobs, as opposed to walking down the hall to talk. But I get to move on and be a real adult. We've said we were adults since we were sixteen, so I guess it's about time we actually did it.

It's been one interesting ride, but I know I'll miss this place and the people I've met. Goodbye SJC.

A Year in Review

By Cheryl Broch

Editor Contributor and My Bodyguard

Well. They're almost done. It is thirteen days until, for some, school is completely over. The real world – with jobs, engagements, babies, etc. – begins. A lot of these people leaving are my friends, my best friends even. It's pretty crazy to think they'll be finished soon. No longer stressing about midterms or finals or some ten-page paper due the next day. Now, it will be stressing about bills, families, pets – grown up stuff. Do you want to be a grown up? (Insert "Do You Want to Build a Snowman" from *Frozen* here).

I have, being the underclassman that I am, had the pleasure to watch my friends go through this journey of their final year in college. Most of the time they talk about memories from past years or joke about possibilities for the future. In the beginning of this year, it seemed so far off, being done and graduating from college. But now, with graduation only a handful of days away, it seems surreal. I'll be in school for many more years (law school and blah blah) while those close to me are done. I'll be alone in stressing about finals or papers. It just seems so weird that

three years difference is like two separate worlds. One world in the confines of lectures and papers; another world with bills, jobs and families. We have been together in the same realm for a year – I wish it was longer. I wish I had come earlier and been able to experience even more with them. However, the time I was granted in this world with them has been pretty great. Plenty of laughter and smiles, some tears too of course – but mostly some really great memories. Not all of them involving parties or breaking

rules (or the law). Most of them included sitting on the Whispering Wall or staying up late eating Kristina's chips and salsa.

It's the little moments of just talking that I think of so fondly. Friendships and relationships are what college is all about; I've been lucky enough to experience both in my time here. Spending the bulk of my time with seniors, I have found that those friendships started from exchanging experiences, telling stories, or just laughing about dumb things. There were no fireworks or

frolicking through golden fields of wheat, it was a simple progression based on proximity and time. My best friend were about four doors down from me, and my significant other even closer.

In some ways, it would have been easier to be friends with someone closer to my age. Because then you have so much more time to be with them. The hardest part of these relationships is the fact that they'll be over – or father apart – in a matter of months. Our worlds will shift apart and possibly so will our

friendships. It's a sad thing, but it almost makes that time more precious. How many more chances will I get to laugh, eat, or watch movies with these people? Not much, only nine days now. So, I might as well make the most of it. I think they feel the same way.

It can't be easy having your entire world shifted to something new, different, and unexpected. The future is scary in its ambiguity, and they are forced to dive into it. With that though, comes the further appreciation of this time. Of the memories made in these four years; the memories become rosier and lovelier with time – or they disappear. Time heals all wounds or makes them into something unexpectedly beautiful. College may not have been the "golden years," but I imagine every senior has memories that they'll hold onto. That they'll look back on and smile or laugh at, wishing they could go back one more time. All of you seniors are starting a new chapter in your life and whatever path you choose will be an adventure. So, good luck, travelers. I hope you make your own "Adventure Book" (*Up* reference).



As we move forward, it is important that we as students never forget where we came from, what institution crafted us into the people we are today: Saint Joseph's College.

A Rant About Computer Safety

Computer expert "Youngblood" gives us his two cents for the last time

By Alex Yong

Features Contributor

As a member of the Techies club on campus, many computers come my way with all sorts of viruses, trojans, and other nasty things lurking about, or just general slowdowns and running like mud.

All of them preventable.

How many of you would skip an oil change? Keep on driving the car until the engine seized up? How many of you would ride your bike while the air leaked out of the tires and the rims became worn out, forcing them to be replaced?

Hopefully none of you.

A computer is no different from any other machine at the

end of the day. It needs regular maintenance and care, otherwise, terrible things will happen. The biggest problem I regularly see is computers with outdated or no anti-virus software. This is not a good thing. Just because you don't download "discounted" movies, music or games, view "horizontal dancing" websites (or download from them!), or anything like that doesn't mean you are immune. There are countless ways your machine can become infected, and without updated anti-virus software, you are leaving your doors open. Luckily, you don't have to pay big bucks for anti-virus software. In fact, you can get everything you need for free (and legally too!) Some good software (which can

all be downloaded from cnet.com, assuming you're using Windows) are:

- Avast Anti-Virus: You'll need an anti-virus shield to protect your machine. Avast is solid, and protects you from most threats. I'd advise turning off the sounds in the settings though, as they are very annoying.
- Malwarebytes: This is probably my go-to when cleaning out a computer. While the free version doesn't have an active shield to defend you from incoming threats, if your computer is infected, this will target and remove most malware that I find on computers.
- Spybot Search & Destroy: Fast, light, and free. It is good to have a second line of defense for your computer, since one program can't always defend against everything.
- Hitman Pro: A lightweight quick scanner. Advertised as a "Second Opinion Scanner", it usually finds stuff that other programs don't find. One problem is that it is a 30-day trial program, but a one-time use should be enough to clean out crap.
- AdBlock Plus: Blocks ads on the Internet INCLUDING YOUTUBE ADS! Ads can also be vectors for viruses, so this can help you out alot!

Viruses aren't your only threat to your computer. You have to defragment your computer,

clean out cookies, and make sure your registry is fine. Some good programs (which can also be obtained from cnet.com) are:

- Defraggler: You HAVE to defragment your computer. In English, it is like organizing your desk so you can get at paperwork faster. Defragging is pretty much doing the same thing, except to computer files. This takes awhile, so read for Core while it is defragging!
- CCleaner: This will clean out all of the Internet cookies and whatnot, junk system files, and clean out your Recycling Bin. It can also check your registry for errors, which can help fix problems.

If you are tired of the problems from Windows, consider a Mac, or a Linux install. While these two operating systems need maintenance too, their design is superior to Windows, and have fewer problems and issues.

Finally, the best fix, and for some of you the only fix, is this. Sadly, laptops are made to die. If you have had the same laptop for the past few years, it may be time to put some of your money that is definitely not for alcohol aside for a new computer. It's rough, but it is a fact of life.

And of course, if you need help, you can always contact techies@saintjoe.edu for computer assistance. Or myself at ayt8479@saintjoe.edu (for the next few days, anyway!). Remember, your computer is only as reliable and safe as you make it!

Is this what you want!? IS IT? Yeah, that is what I thought. If you don't get this reference you should probably get out more.



In a world of dangerous computers, it is important to be aware of what might ail you. Thanks to the smart and good-looking Alex "Youngblood" Yong, we can all remain safe. By the way, ladies, he has a job, so you guys should wife him up. Just sayin'.



Baseball Nears End of Season

By Katie Guernsey
Sports Editor

After a long weekend on the road, the Puma baseball squad returns with some close losses. They traveled to the University of Southern Indiana to compete in double headers both Saturday and Sunday.

The first game opened with a USI three-run homerun in the fifth inning despite the Pumas scoring two in the first. In the end the Pumas fell 7-2, with senior Brett Maus pitching 5.1 innings, allowing five total runs on nine hits with three strikeouts. Juniors Josh Keim and Joe Sturino ended both 2 for 4 on the day.

The second game of the day for the Pumas was closer but the Pumas still fell 3-2. The Pumas scored their first run in the third inning when freshman Joshua Handzik hit an RBI to score Austin Bartle. The Pumas scored again in the sixth off of a USI error. Junior Jordan Peterson recorded this loss after pitching for 6.2 innings, allowing three runs on five hits with six



Sophomore Nic Sampognaro slides into second base against McKendree University.

Photo courtesy Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S

strikeouts.

The next day the Pumas came back ready to go, but fell in a high-scoring game 17-6. The USI Screaming Eagles scored 10 runs in the first four frames. RBIs were recorded by Riley Benner, Josh

Bynum, Chris Hauser and Jack Teah.

In the last game of the series the Pumas were up 4-3 after the eighth before the Screaming Eagles scored two in the ninth. Sophomore Nic Sampognaro had

two RBIs for the day. Jake Harper started pitching, going 5.2 innings allowing three runs on eight hits with six strikeouts. Keegan Long finished the game, putting in three innings of work with two runs on two hits with two strikeouts.

The Pumas will finish their season with a four game set against the University of Illinois-Springfield on May 3rd and 4th at home. The Pumas hope to improve their current overall record of 17-30, 12-21 in the GLVC.

Coach Rick O'Dette meets with third baseman Josh Keim, Declan McCaron, pitcher Jake Harper, first baseman Angelo Burrage, and catcher Louie Grounds.

Photo courtesy Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S



Pumas End the Regular Season the Right Way

By Jon Smith
Sports Staff Writer

Your Saint Joseph's College softball team (16-28, 13-21 GLVC) split against two tough opponents over the weekend. It was an overall good week for the Pumas as they played both the University of Southern Indiana and Bellarmine University. Despite these tough games, they held together well. The highlight of this weekend was that they were able to send seniors Shawn Hoskins, Kylie Weeks, Audra Rains, and Samantha Foutch out on a good note on their final regular season game. It was also a home game, so that added to the emotion of the moment. The Pumas showed the same grit and thick skin they have been showing all season as they tried to get some momentum to propel them into postseason play.

First, the Pumas played on Saturday against the University

of Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles (22-21, 12-20 GLVC). The Pumas and Screaming Eagles battled hard against each other and the end results in both games showed it. In the first game, it was a close game all the way through. Junior Megan Schwartzengraber pitched another great game against USI, only giving up one run that came off of a sacrifice fly in the top of the second inning. Other than that it was a complete game. USI held the Pumas at bay just long enough to pull off the victory in the first game 1-0.

The second game was highlighted by senior Audra Rains, who tripled in the bottom of the first inning to bring in three runs after the bases were loaded. That hit alone became the deciding factor in the game. The Screaming Eagles made a late push but it wasn't enough to come back. The Pumas eventually won 3-2.

On Sunday, the Pumas played their final regular season matchup against the Bellarmine University Knights (33-13, 26-8 GLVC). It was an emotional day for the Pumas as it was the seniors last regular season games and they were at home. The Pumas overall played very well and fought hard

against a very tough opponent in the Knights. The Pumas ended up splitting the games on Sunday like they did Saturday, winning the first game 3-1 and losing the second 0-7. The Pumas sent their seniors out on the right note as far as the regular season is concerned, getting the split with the Knights.



Upcoming Events

May 2nd

Men's and Women's Track
@ GLVC Championship
Lewis University

May 3rd

Men's and Women's Track
@ GLVC Championship

Baseball
vs. University of Illinois-Springfield
12:00 & 2:00 p.m.

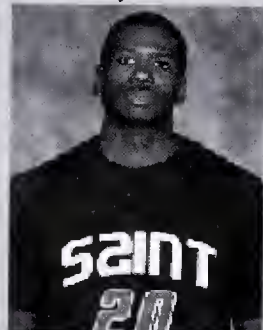
May 4th

Baseball
vs. University of Illinois-Springfield
12:00 & 2:00 p.m.

Special Thanks to these Writer/Athletes:



Bisrat Desta (above) and Jon Smith (below) have been valuable to the Observer Staff and also excelled in their respective sports. Thanks for your hard work!



Junior Vince Fisher competes in the hammer throw at the Gene and Rose Edmonds Invitational.

Photo courtesy Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P. S.

Interview with Senior of the Year: Alberto Anguiano

By Danielle Snyder and Randee Portteus

On Friday, April 25th, our very own athlete Alberto Anguiano was named Senior of the Year. From Hammond, Indiana, a member of the Saint Joseph’s College soccer team and a Business Administration and International Studies major, Anguiano knows the meaning of hard work. A native of Hammond, Ind., Anguiano has dedicated himself to helping others. His involvement in Habitat for Humanity, Campus Ministry, and the Gallagher Charitable Society has allowed him to gain a perspective that will help him as he moves forward into the business world. Anguiano says, “Good morals are something that SJC has instilled in me, which I will always have in whatever career I choose.”

Anguiano received the 2012 Men’s College Division II Scholar All-North/Central Region Award and has served as president of the SJC chapter of Habitat for Humanity and the Foreign Language Club, as well as vice president of the Gallagher Charitable Society. He was also a rector on SJC’s Kairos retreat twice.

How many siblings do you have? Family seems important to you, do you attribute any of your success in college to them?

“I have two brothers, one older (29) and one younger (16). My family has been the most important factor in my success in college. They taught me how to be humble and how to appreciate the things that God has blessed you with. My parents grew up with nothing and came to this country with a dream to give their children opportunities that could not be possible in Mexico. I have showed my appreciation by fully taking advantage of my situation and being the first in my family to attend college. The support system that my family gave me provided me with the confidence to succeed in college.”

What set you apart from the other candidates? If you hadn’t won, who would you have wanted to win?

“The other candidates were all very capable of winning this award. I believe I was just lucky enough to take advantage of the extracurricular activities that this amazing school offers. I felt extremely humbled when I received this award because at first, I was not sure if I deserved this award. Then afterwards many of my friends came to me and congratulated me and I realized that I specifically knew each person from the different activities that I was involved in. Most importantly Kairos and Habitat for Humanity because those activities involved spiritual

development and I was able to experience that with many people throughout my career at SJC. I was also involved in World Languages Club, Gallagher Charitable Society, Diversity Coalition, and I also was blessed with the chance to play the sport that I love here at SJC. I believe that I was able to positively impact my peers by being involved in activities that helped individuals both physically and mentally. As far as who I believe I wanted to win if I did not, I honestly could not be able to decide. Colby, Katie, Liz, and Audra have all positively impacted this campus in their own ways. They have all been involved in so many organizations and they have helped out so many people. I feel honored to have been nominated with these individual classmates. This campus is blessed to have had them as students.”

You mentioned Ian Connelly in your acceptance speech – how important was it to you to win this for his sake?

“Winning the award in general was not the most important thing in the world for me. I would have been happy if the others would have won this award because they deserved it also. But winning this award after everything that happened this semester made me appreciate it much more. I remember when my fellow



Alberto poses with Professor Fred Berger and fellow seniors Danni Snyder and Emily Claeys.

classmates voted for it, Ian was the first one who messaged me saying “Hey I voted for you! That means you’re going to win for sure!” and when they announced the five nominees, Ian was the first to congratulate me by texting me. The announcement of the nominees was the day before we lost him, so the acknowledgment was the last thing I was thinking about. He has had such a great influence on me as a human being. I loved him like a brother and I think about him every single day. When the senior dinner came, I thought about what I would do if I were to win. I knew automatically that I would

dedicate the award fully to him because he was such an important part of my life. I also knew that if I were to win, I would take the award down to Florida and give it to the Connelly family. His family is my family and I could not have won the award without him so I want to show my appreciation by giving their household a piece of SJC. I promised myself that everything I ever do in life will be dedicated solely to him. This is just the beginning. I miss him so much but I know I will see him again one day. He’s saving a spot for me on that soccer field in heaven.”

Track and Field Works Toward GLVC Championship

By Jon Smith
Sports Staff Writer

With the end of the school year fast approaching, the spring sports are slowly wrapping up. The track and field team has finished their regular meets leading up to the GLVC championship at Lewis University. They will look to improve on their marks in order to insure a spot in the fast heat for the running events and score much needed points for the team. The Pumas have been getting better with each passing week but will need to put it all together to place top three in both the men’s and women’s side.

The Pumas traveled to Indiana Wesleyan University this past weekend to compete at the annual Little 500 meet. The ladies team placed fifth while the men’s team struggled and finished in eighth place out of eleven teams. The women had all around good performances, from the throwers to the hurdlers; junior Danielle Perkins provided needed points in both the 100 and 200 meter dash. Perkins finished seventh in both the events running 12.54 in the 100 meter dash and 25.94 in 200. The Lady Pumas also got good contribution from the throwers

who were led by Sophomore Heather Monk. Monk finished fourth place, while Mercedes Montgomery and Morgan Meyer both posted top 10 performances. Samantha Nirva carried her momentum from the indoor season and finished in second place in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 14.41.

The men’s team did not enjoy the same success the women’s team had but had some notable performances from the mid-distance and distance team. Junior Logan Barrett broke away from the field in the 5,000 meter

run and won the race while his teammates Richard Kaht and Justin Hays finished fourth and fifth respectively. Captain and senior Michael Fauser had a great performance and ran his best time of this outdoor season with a time of 1:53 in the 800 meter run. Perhaps the most entertaining race of the meet was the 10,000 meter run which included four Puma Runners. Richard Kaht finished in 3rd place while his teammates Justin Hayes, Jake Carden, and Lane Barrett all finished top 7. Hayes’ time makes him eligible to run at junior nationals in Eugene,

Oregon later this season.

“I felt good so I just went with it,” said Hayes, who is having an outstanding season.

The Pumas traveled to Bellarmine University this past weekend to compete. Notable highlights from the weekend include junior Logan Barrett winning the 5,000 meter run again with a time of 15:04.64 and Sam Nirva winning the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 14.40.

The Pumas hope to improve even further at their final meet next weekend at Lewis University.

Puma Athlete Profile: Katie Guernsey

By Victoria Lawson
Sports Staff Writer



Katie is a Creative Writing and Business Administration major from Henryville, Indiana. She has served as Sports Editor for two years, and writer as one. This is her last issue and she is very excited to pass the reins on to someone else.

What’s your favorite thing to order from the hub?
“Peanut butter protein smoothie for sure.”

Whose your favorite Core professor and why?

“I’d say it would have to be either Maia Hawthorne or Peter Watkins, I can’t decide between the two. Both are incredibly badass people in general.”

How many years did you play tennis?
“I’ve played since sixth grade or so, but didn’t start taking it seriously until 8th grade.”

You’re graduating in two weeks so what are your plans after graduation?
“Going wherever the wind takes me! Just going to get in my car and take off and see where I end up. Like I’m literally going to be homeless for a while. Hit me up if you have a nice couch.”

If you could relive anything from college what would it be and why?

“Hm. I would probably go back to freshman year and spend way more time with my best friend Jamie Stockdale, who passed away our sophomore year. She was the best person I’ve ever met by far.”

Biggest pet peeve?
“My biggest pet peeve is when people clip their toenails. I can hear it a mile away and I hate the sound. I’d rather have someone shoving icicles through my eyeballs than have to listen to that. It’s just so nasty.”

Favorite book that became a movie?
“Atonement, by Ian McEwan. The movie is just as awesome as the book and that rarely happens. Plus the movie has James McAvoy and he’s gorgeous.”

Who is your favorite person?
“Katharine Hepburn, an actress who worked from the 30’s to the 90’s. She was all-around wild, didn’t take crap from anyone, and refused to conform to anyone else’s expectations. She is my favorite.”

Is there something you want to leave your teammates with after you graduate?
“I would like to tell all of my little grandmas out there to not get too down on themselves at times and appreciate the good moments.”

Know an athlete that deserves the spotlight? That’s too bad, it’ll have to wait until the Fall semester.

the back page

Creative Corner



Painting By Ashley Brinkman



Pencil & Ink Drawing By Kyle Stafford



Painting By Ashley Brinkman

Falling—In or Out? By Gloria Leonard

When you fall in love, you keep on falling. Every second is a constant pang of simultaneous fear and excitement. They love you, they love you not. You find yourself drowning in a field of picked-off petals and little hearts you don't remember drawing appear on the edge of your notebook. It's exhilarating, really: the not knowing.

You picture yourself as Alice in Wonderland, falling down a never-ending hole, finding all sorts of things on the way down. You find a reason to keep falling, or to catch onto something to stop the falling. Or perhaps you find yourself, or you discover the person that you are falling for isn't really the person you thought you jumped for to begin with.

Falling in love is like taking classes you are passionate about. For instance, an English course: You fall for the way he recites poetry, calling you his sky, his world, his moon. Or the way he writes lyrics with his fingertips down the curve of your spine. Or an anatomy class, where you learn to love each and every one of the bones in his body—how his smooth skin covers his pectoralis major that covers his sternum, which shields the heart he claims beats for only you. A math class becomes passionate, where you learn that one plus one does not always equal two, but three—how those butterflies you felt turned into tiny hands and feet.

Falling in love is believing in forever and letting him have the last bite of chocolate cake, because what's love without a few sacrifices? It is singing off-key on the ride home, and feeling lost when you are home alone.

In some cases, you think you are done falling, which can go one of two ways. One, you could be wrong, and fall in love with said person more and more. Or second, you could be falling back, and out. The thing about falling out of love is that you don't even feel it when it happens. You just notice one day that something was there before and has long since gone.

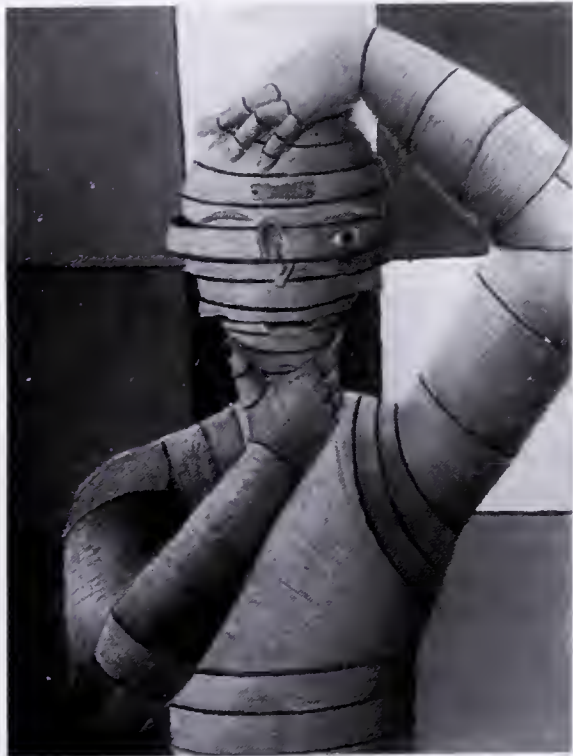
It's like leaving a book on a shelf that you never finished. You glimpse at it from time to time, passively, and when you happen to glance its way again several weeks from then, you notice its absence. You discover that your significant other has moved it to their bedside table to cope with the silence that has replaced the love-making and laughter and even the arguing that once occurred.

Falling out of love is like remembering the days you two took turns turning off the light at night and lying in the middle of the bed, together, rather than sleeping on opposite sides of the beds...like you do now. It is each of you having a lamp at your bedside so as to not have to argue about whose turn it is to turn off the light tonight, and who is more tired, and who works harder, and who deserves better—all over a light.

Falling out of love means you are angry. You are angry at him, and the unfinished book, the lamps, the bed. You are angry at time, and where the hell did it go, because you swear you had your whole life ahead of you and now the only thing you wake up to is the sound of two alarms, two lamps turning on, two closets, and wishing you bought two of everything because "what's mine is yours" became "what's mine and what's yours?"

How do you fall? You run in, arms wide and eyes closed. You take a leap of faith. Or, you're pushed. You're going to fall forward or you are going to fall back—either way, you're going to fall, and when you do, you'll be simultaneously happy and miserable. It's exhilarating, really: falling, and not knowing.

Pencil Drawing By Chris Blanchard



Pencil & Ink Drawing By Leann Kooi



Painting By Katie Davisson

